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Soviet Space Shot Called 13th Orbital Bombing Test

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 (UPI)—Russia appears to have conducted the 13th test of its orbital bomb system, United States observers reported today.

They said a space shot Oct. 2, which the Russians called Cosmos 244, had all the earmarks of the so-called fractional orbital bombardment system, which the Soviet Union has been testing since 1966.

Unlike ballistic missiles, which rise to a height of about 800 miles and then drop to targets, F.O.B.S. goes into a very low earth orbit, 100 to 200 miles

above the earth. It comes down before completing one trip around the earth, but could be made to make more than one revolution before landing on its target.

The Soviet announcement of the space shot said nothing about the orbital system, but experts here said that data publicly released about its orbit followed almost exactly the pattern of previous tests identified as F.O.B.S. by the United States.